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*Putin is Talking—But Is the West Listening?*

Coming out of my bank, with earbuds in, I was listening to an interview when an old friend came up from behind and greeted me. He asked what I was listening to and I told him it was Tucker Carlson doing an interview with Vladimir Putin. He remarked that those were not 2 of his favorite people. I was going to let it go—but instead told him that Tucker was a real journalist doing real journalism, who got Putin to talk for 2 hours when no one else could or did. After an awkward moment, and a goodby, I moved on.

Commentators characterize the exchange between Putin and Carlson as 'master and buffoon'. Many pundits are trolls. Putin as 'head of state', at war', is not equals with Carlson. Tucker offered a platform for Putin to speak freely—that the West disallow.

The 2 hour interview between Tucker and Putin is available to Americans/West—and across the globe more than 150 million have tuned in. But, in the US, other than references to an American newsman being held in Russia for espionage, there is literally no coverage of the interview on the networks. My wife told me she read some coverage in the NY Times. But their 'fish-wrap' coverage' of Putin and Russia is more RussiaGate.

Avoidance of the principal players on the world stage takes me back to my university, graduate school days where students and professors of philosophy offered-up papers, not from original sources, but from commentaries. For God's sake, when you have the 'Dialogues of Plato' or the US Constitution right in front of you, why the commentaries? It's the same with Putin: up against WW3, we are we not negotiating directly with him?

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton/Bill Kristol spew their garbage about Putin puppets and disallowing Tucker back into the US. They assume a right to restrict free speech/travel?

Vladimir Putin is a thoughtful, articulate man who is willing to sit for a 2 hour interview. Why would any American not want to hear what he has to say? This isn't about 'free speech', this is more to do with survival of humanity. Are Americans that stupid?

Putin, after asking Tucker if this is to be a serious conversation, offers a comprehensive history of how the Ukrainian situation came to be. Within that history Putin makes the case for a host of bad faith and lies on the part of the United States that led up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He lays out agreements that were made with the West/NATO, and with Presidents of the US that were each made in bad faith and lies.

If the US doesn't take Putin seriously, the chance we all die in a nuclear exchange greatly increases. Where did 'broken promises' with Russia begin? Recall Clinton and

the bombing of Serbia. When Russia protested, the West criticized the UN Charter/'international law' as 'out of date', needing re-examined—as not supportive of the US.

When the wall came down and the Soviet Union ended, it was widely assumed in Russia that a 'new dawn of cooperation' would unfold. Boris Yeltsin was met at Congress with applause. But when the US began its attack on Serbia, bombing Belgrade, Yeltsin objected, and he was quickly denounced as a false friend—just another drunk.

Later, Putin came to 'agreements' with Clinton and Bush Sr., but after consultation with 'intelligence', they changed their minds. The CIA came back with 'we have been working with the opposition in the Russian Caucasus, and we will continue to do it.'

Russia's hope of working with the West persevered through 5 waves of NATO expansion—each contrary to agreement. A German leader assessed: *after the collapse of the Soviet Union, if NATO were to expand, it would be another 'cold war'—this time closer to Russia's borders.* And, with a plan to weaken Russia, the US armed Ukraine.

Since 2002, Russia has appealed to the West to end support of Ukrainian neo-Nazi-fication, to recognize those very leaders eulogized by Ukrainians as those responsible for the slaughter of Jews, Poles, and Russians. And, 'neo-Nazi' support is not limited to Ukraine. Not long ago, a Ukrainian was introduced to the Canadian Parliament, to a standing ovation, as someone who fought Russians in WW2—as an ally of Nazis.

So when did the Russian 'Special Military Operation' in Ukraine begin? The war started in 2014 with a US inspired and funded coup of the duly-elected president of Ukraine. A war that included the persecution of Russian speaking regions of Ukraine, subjected to bombing and artillery that killed more the 14,000 civilians over 8 years.

Then came the 'comedic actor' Zelensky who won the UKR Presidency running on a peace plan. Zelensky is a Jew, whose father fought the Nazis on the front-lines, but it didn't take long before Zelensky got the Nazi message, and any peace plan was done.

But then came Istanbul, shortly after Russia invaded. UKR required that Russia pull back from Kiev, which they did, and a peace agreement was reached, well before the slaughter of Ukrainians that ensued. The Ukrainian negotiator in Istanbul attests that the peace deal was signed off before Boris Johnson arrived—with 'full faith and credit' of the US, to fight Russia, with a promise the US would supply all needed weapons.

Also, we heard from Angela Merkel: that 'Minsk Agreements', intended to have stopped bloodshed in the Donbas by giving the Russian-speaking regions semi-autonomy—were never to be. No Western signatory had any intention of implementing 'Minsk'. Instead, another lie, a ruse, to buy time to build-up the Ukrainian military capability.

Tucker asked several time why Putin had waited so long to bring up objections to actions of US/NATO. Putin had done so, regularly, offering fears that if Russia's security concerns were not addressed, Russia would have to act. Then, the 'Special Military Operation' was launched when Russia saw no alternative to maintain its sovereignty.

Was war with Russia the US goal? Leading up to war, NATO ramped up its attack on the Donbas and, with hubris, made bets on the day Russia's invasion—commenced.

In previous wars, beginning with Vietnam, evil idiots, all decked-out as Western leaders, saw themselves invincible—only to be exposed and toothless—out of touch.

Now a last act begins: BRICS (with many nations applying), will hold 121 meetings in Russia. The US counter? Weaponize the dollar by threatening/seizing foreign reserves. This will bring on a dollar collapse—where gold is wealth and silver buys the groceries.

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